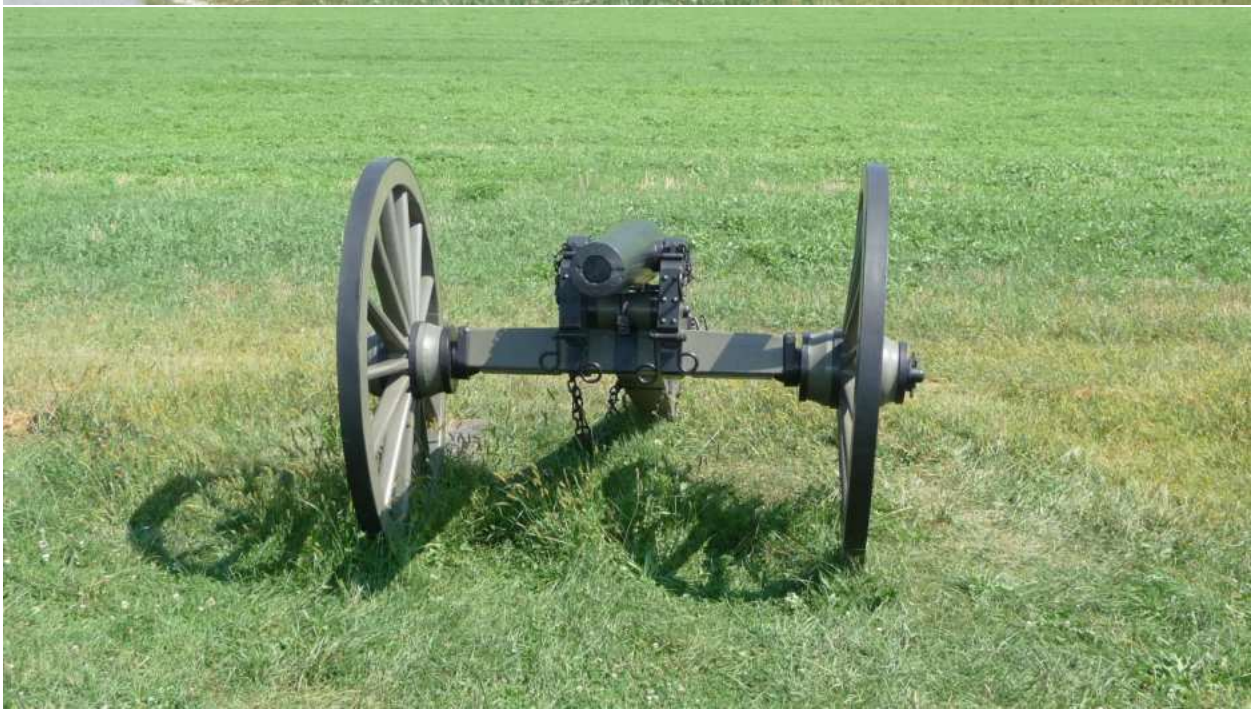
My Photographs – Gettysburg Pennsylvania National Park

80TH N.Y. INFANTRY.
1ST BRIG. 3D DIV. 1ST CORPS
ORGANIZED 1851 AT KINGSTON, N.Y.
AS 20TH N.Y.S.M.
APR. 28, 1861 ENTERED U.S. SERVICE FOR 3 MONTHS.
SEPT. 5, 1861 RE-ENTERED SERVICE FOR 3 YEARS.
SEPT. 5, 1864 RE-ENLISTED AS VETERANS FOR THE WAR.
JAN. 28, 1866 MUSTERED OUT OF SERVICE.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC
FIRST CORPS THIRD DIVISION
FIRST BRIGADE
COL. CHAPMAN BIDDLE
BRIG. GEN. THOMAS A. ROWLEY
80TH NEW YORK 121ST 142D 151ST PENNA. INFANTRY
JULY 1 ARRIVED AND WENT INTO POSITION ABOUT 11.30 A.M. LEFT OF REYNOLDS'S WOODS THE 151ST PENNA. HAVING BEEN SENT TO REINFORCE SECOND BRIGADE ON RIGHT OF REYNOLDS'S WOODS THE REMAINING REGIMENTS WITH BATTERY B, 1ST PENNA. FORMED LINE FACING WEST AND HELD THIS POSITION UNTIL NEAR 3 P.M. WHEN BEING PRESSED WITH SUPERIOR NUMBERS IN FRONT AND OUTFLANKED ON THE LEFT THE BRIGADE RETIRED TO SEMINARY RIDGE ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE CORPS THE BRIGADE RETIRED TO CEMETERY HILL AND FORMED ON THE LEFT ALONG TANEYTOWN ROAD AND REMAINED THERE UNTIL NOON THE NEXT DAY
JULY 2 BETWEEN 5 AND 6 P.M. THE BRIGADE WAS MOVED TO THE LEFT CENTRE FROM WHICH FIRST DIVISION SECOND CORPS HAD BEEN TAKEN TO SUPPORT THIRD CORPS
JULY 3 REMAINED IN THE SAME POSITION AND ASSISTED IN REPELLING LONGSTREET'S ASSAULT IN THE AFTERNOON TAKING MANY PRISONERS AT 6 P.M. WITHDREW TO FORMER POSITION ON TANEYTOWN ROAD
CASUALTIES KILLED 8 OFFICERS 108 MEN WOUNDED 41 OFFICERS 516 MEN CAPTURED OR MISSING 6 OFFICERS 222 MEN TOTAL 666



NEW YORK

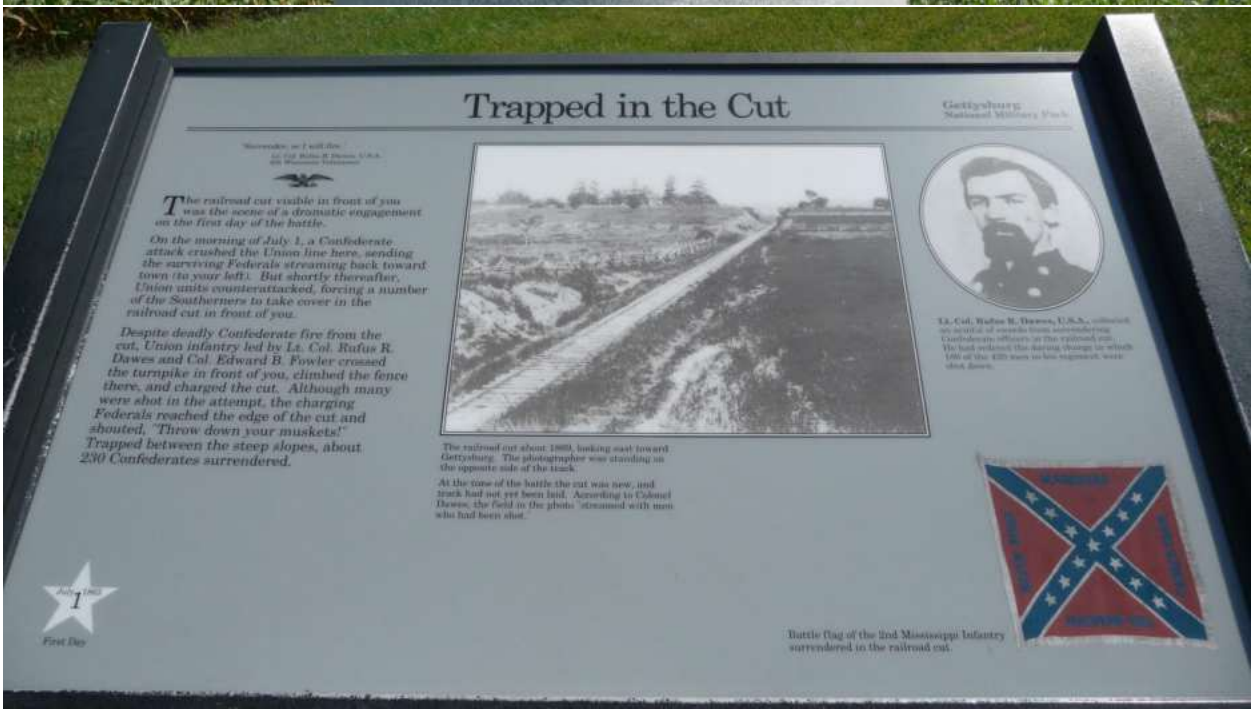
ABNER DOUBLEDAY
MAJOR GENERAL U S V
1819 - 1893
NEW YORK

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC
CAVALRY CORPS
SECOND BRIGADE HORSE ARTILLERY
BATTERY A SECOND U. S. ARTILLERY
SIX 3 INCH RIFLES
LIEUT. JOHN H. CALEF COMMANDING

Monuments and Markers
Gettysburg National Military Park
War Department Markers
State Memorials
Regimental Monuments
Bronze Statues
Wayside Exhibits

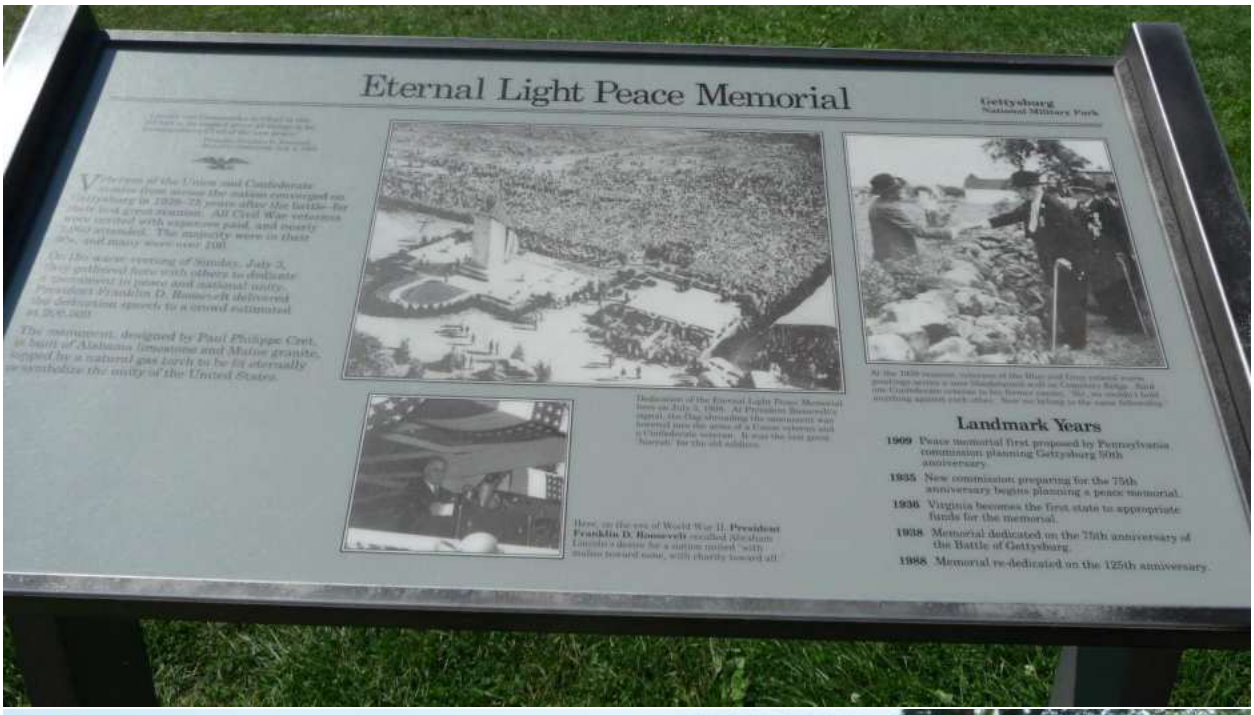
The Battle Opens
Gettysburg
National Military Park
On the morning of July 1, 1863, the bloodiest single battle of the Civil War began here on the outskirts of Gettysburg.
About 8 a.m., 7,000 Confederate infantry attacking from the west and north (in front of you) clashed with 3,200 dismounted Union cavalry positioned along this ridge. The cavalry slowed the Confederate tide until the Union infantry arrived on the battlefield.
By 10:30 a.m., the Union First Corps reached the field and drove the Confederates back in a bloody hour-long action here that left nearly 2,000 dead and wounded. Among the victims was Union Maj. Gen. John F. Reynolds, the first of many generals whose careers ended at Gettysburg.
1
First Day
Maj. Gen. John F. Reynolds,

WADSWORTH


Trapped in the Cut
Gettysburg
National Military Park
The railroad cut visible in front of you was the scene of a dramatic engagement on the first day of the battle.
On the morning of July 1, a Confederate attack crushed the Union line here, sending the surviving Federals streaming back toward town (to your left). But shortly thereafter, Union units counterattacked, forcing a number of the Southerners to take cover in the railroad cut in front of you.
Despite deadly Confederate fire from the cut, Union infantry led by Lt. Col. Rufus R. Dawes and Col. Edward B. Fowler crossed the turnpike in front of you, climbed the fence there, and charged the cut. Although many were shot in the attempt, the charging Federals reached the edge of the cut and shouted, "Throw down your muskets!" Trapped between the steep slopes, about 230 Confederates surrendered.
The railroad cut about 1869, looking east toward Gettysburg. The photographer was standing on the opposite side of the track.
At the time of the battle the cut was new, and track had not yet been laid. According to Colonel Dawes, the field in the photo "streamed with men who had been shot."
Lt. Col. Rufus R. Dawes, U.S.S.,
Battle flag of the 2nd Mississippi Infantry surrendered in the railroad cut.
1
First Day

6TH NEW YORK CAVALRY
2D BRIGADE·1ST DIVISION·
CAVALRY CORPS·

1 Eternal Light Memorial

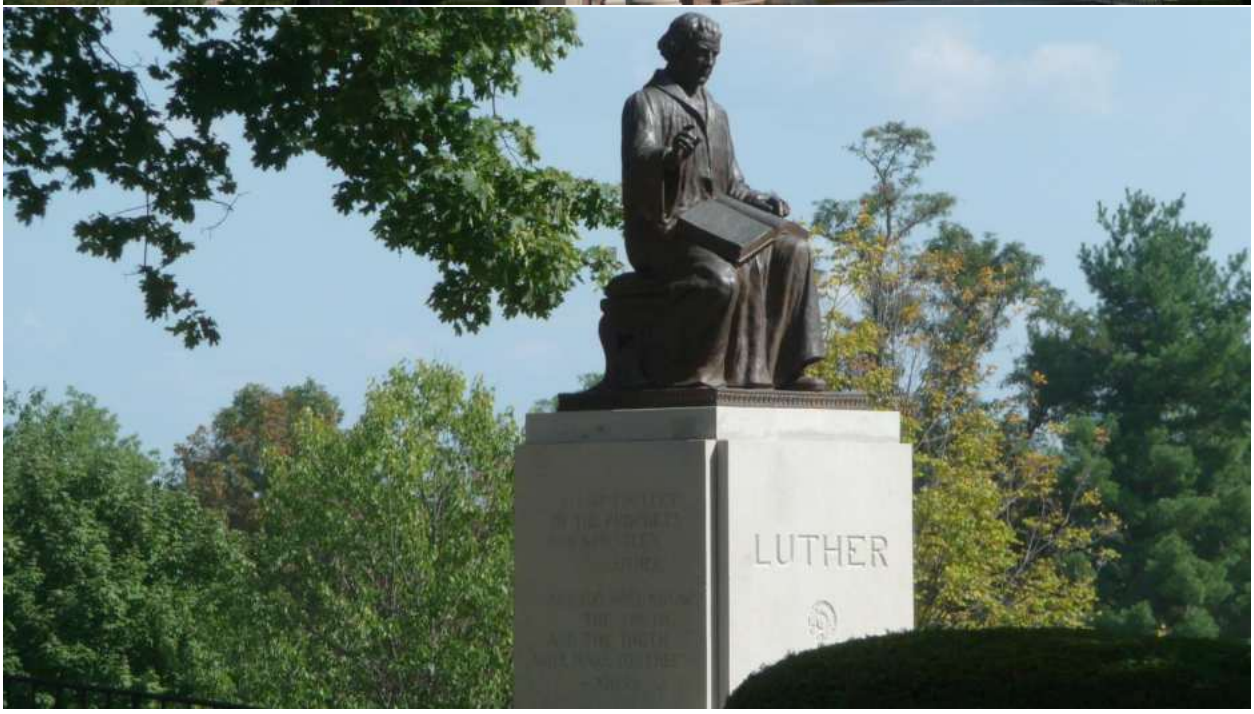

Eternal Light Peace Memorial
Gettysburg
National Military Park
Landmark Years
1909 Peace memorial first proposed by Pennsylvania commission planning Gettysburg 50th anniversary.
1935 New commission preparing for the 75th anniversary begins planning a peace memorial.
1936 Virginia becomes the first state to appropriate funds for the memorial.
1938 Memorial dedicated on the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.
1988 Memorial re-dedicated on the 125th anniversary.

General Rodes Attacks
Gettysburg National Military Park
At noon on July 1, after a lull in the fighting, Maj. Gen. Robert E. Rodes took position on this hill north of Gettysburg with 8,000 Confederates. Other Confederate divisions were converging on the town from your right and left. The closest Union troops were on Oak Ridge about 1/3-mile in front of you.
The thunder of Southern cannon positioned here signaled the beginning of the attack. Following the cannonade, Brig. Gen. Alfred Iverson's North Carolina Brigade advanced with other Confederates against Oak Ridge. As Iverson neared the ridge, Federals sealed behind a stone wall rose up and hit the North Carolinians with murderous fire. More than half the 1,470 Confederates who were killed, wounded, or captured.
Rodes then regrouped and renewed the attack, bringing more Confederate troops into the fight. By 4:00 p.m., despite heavy losses, Confederates had pushed the Federals through the streets of Gettysburg.
You are standing on Oak Hill looking south over much of the field of the first day of the battle.
1 Oak Ridge
2 Reynolds Woods/McPherson Ridge
3 Chambersburg Pike
4 Mummasburg Road
Maj. Gen. Robert E. Rodes commanded the largest division in the Confederate army—8,000 officers and men. 2,000 of these were lost on the fields in front of you on the first day of the battle.
Infantry positions at midday, July 1, 1863. The map is oriented to the south, the direction you are facing.
GETTYSBURG

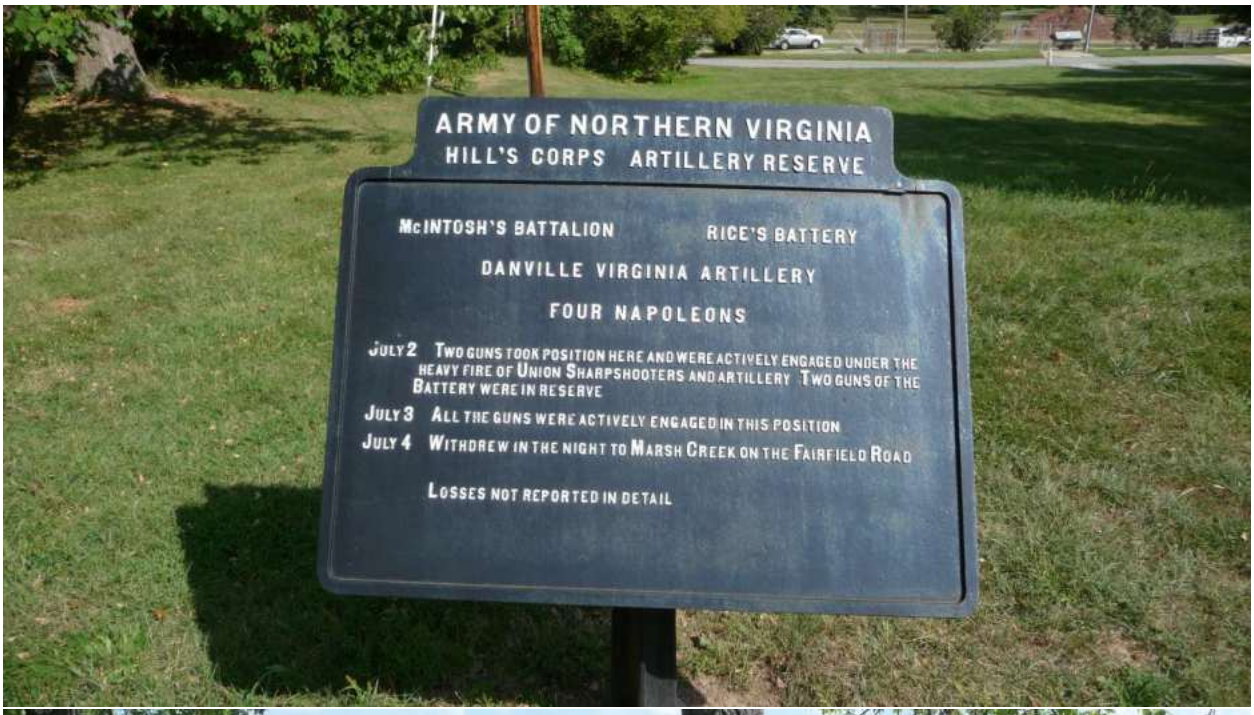
ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA
EWELL'S CORPS
RODES'S DIVISION
CARTER'S BATTALION
FRY'S BATTERY
THE ORANGE ARTILLERY
TWO 10 POUNDER PARROTTS AND TWO 3 INCH RIFLES
JULY 1 OPENED FIRE SOON AFTER ARRIVING HERE UPON THE UNION TROOPS NEAR THE CHAMBERSBURG PIKE TO WHICH THEIR ARTILLERY REPLIED WITH A HEAVY FIRE THAT CAUSED SOME LOSS SOON AFTERWARD THE UNION FORCES EXTENDED THEIR LINE NORTHWARD TO THE MUMMASBURG ROAD AND THIS BATTERY BY ITS ENFILADING FIRE AIDED OUR INFANTRY IN THE SEVERE CONFLICT WHICH ENDED WITH THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE FIRST CORPS FROM SEMINARY RIDGE
JULY 2 IN POSITION BUT WAS NOT ENGAGED
JULY 3 ALL ITS GUNS WERE ON SEMINARY RIDGE NEAR THE RAILROAD CUT AND TOOK PART IN THE CANNONADE PRECEDING LONGSTREET'S ASSAULT
JULY 4 AFTER NIGHTFALL BEGAN THE MARCH TO HAGERSTOWN
LOSSES NOT REPORTED AMMUNITION EXPENDED 982 ROUNDS

End of the First Day
Gettysburg
National Military Park
Infantry and artillery of the Union Eleventh Corps fanned in the valley below you on the afternoon of July 1 to defend against Rodes and Early's Confederate divisions which were attacking them from your left and rear. By 4:00 p.m. the Confederate tide swept through this area, scooping up 3,000 Union prisoners on the way.
9,000 Union soldiers and 6,800 Confederate soldiers were killed, wounded, or missing on July 1. Both sides paid a heavy price, but the Southerners had won the day. Gen. Robert E. Lee, the Confederate commander, believed his gains here gave hope for victory.
The Federals retreated through the streets of Gettysburg to Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill just south and east of town. Despite their defeat the first day, they held a strong defensive position from which to renew the fight the following day.
Barlow Knoll
Carlisle Road
Mummasburg Road
Culp's Hill
Gettysburg College
Cemetery Hill
This illustration of Union infantrymen by Gilbert Gaul gives a good impression of what it must have been like here on the first day.
Pennsylvania College (Gettysburg College)

2 Lutheran Seminary


LUTHER

ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA
HILL'S CORPS ARTILLERY RESERVE
McINTOSH'S BATTALION JOHNSON'S VIRGINIA BATTERY
TWO NAPOLEONS AND TWO 3 INCH RIFLES
JULY 2 IN POSITION HERE AND ACTIVELY ENGAGED UNDER THE HEAVY FIRE OF UNION SHARPSHOOTERS AND ARTILLERY
JULY 3 REMAINED IN THIS POSITION ALL DAY AND ACTIVELY ENGAGED
JULY 4 WITHDREW IN THE NIGHT TO MARSH CREEK ON THE FAIRFIELD ROAD
LOSSES NOT REPORTED IN DETAIL


ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA
HILL'S CORPS ARTILLERY RESERVE
McINTOSH'S BATTALION
RICE'S BATTERY
DANVILLE VIRGINIA ARTILLERY
FOUR NAPOLEONS
JULY 2 TWO GUNS TOOK POSITION HERE AND WERE ACTIVELY ENGAGED UNDER THE HEAVY FIRE OF UNION SHARPSHOOTERS AND ARTILLERY TWO GUNS OF THE BATTERY WERE IN RESERVE
JULY 3 ALL THE GUNS WERE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THIS POSITION
JULY 4 WITHDREW IN THE NIGHT TO MARSH CREEK ON THE FAIRFIELD ROAD
LOSSES NOT REPORTED IN DETAIL

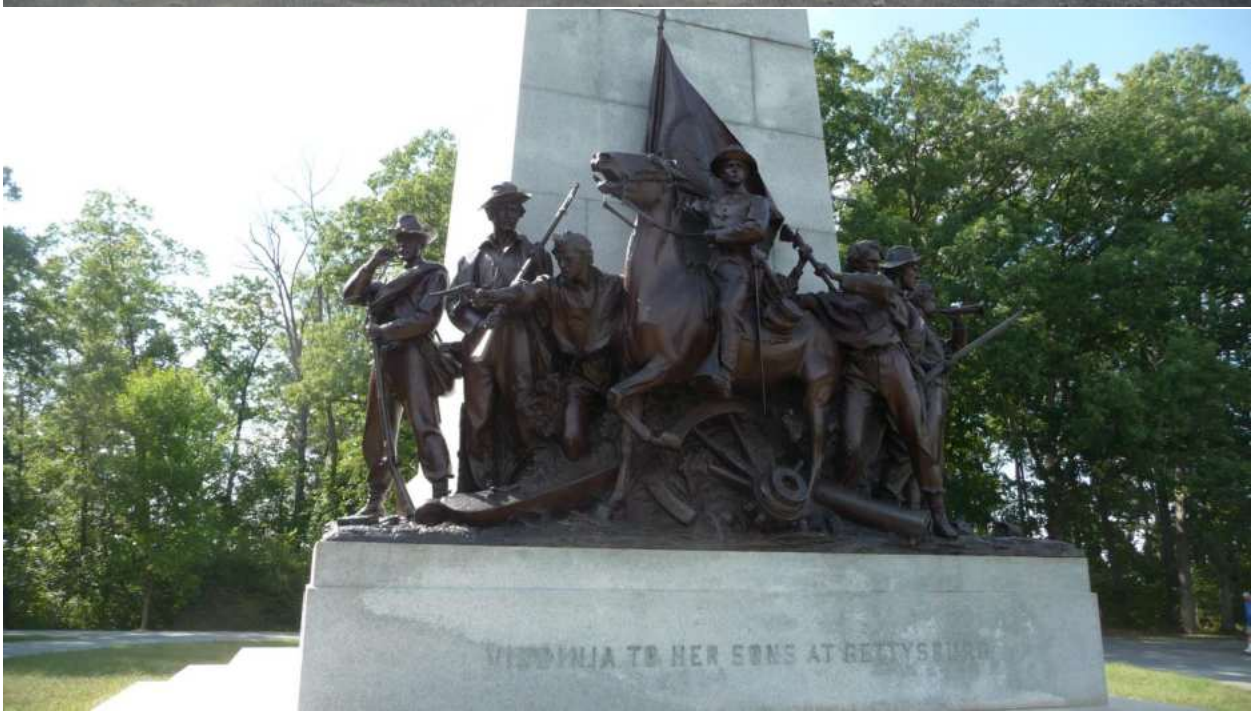
C. S. A.
ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA
PERRIN'S BRIGADE
1ST RIFLES 12TH, 13TH, 14TH REGIMENTS AND 1ST
PROVISIONAL SOUTH CAROLINA INFANTRY

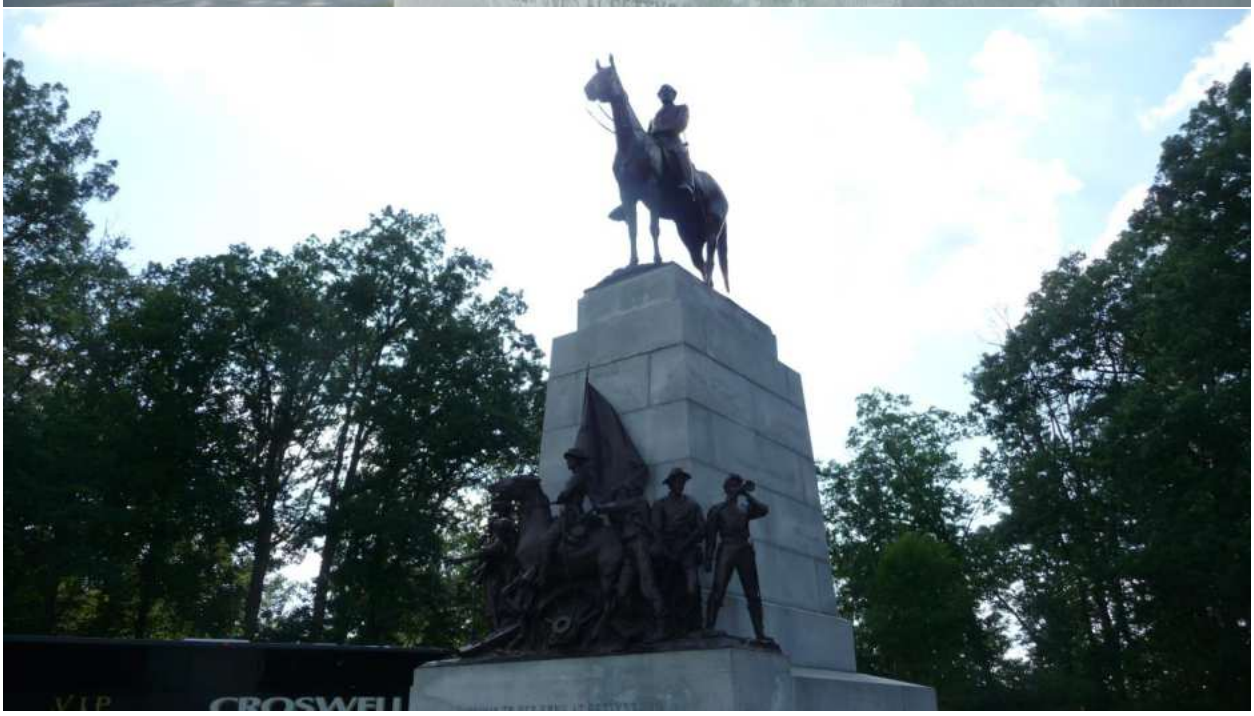
11TH MISSISSIPPI
INFANTRY REGIMENT
DAVIS' BRIGADE - HETH'S DIVISION
A. P. HILL'S CORPS
ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA
CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA
AFTERNOON JULY 2 - JULY 4, 1863

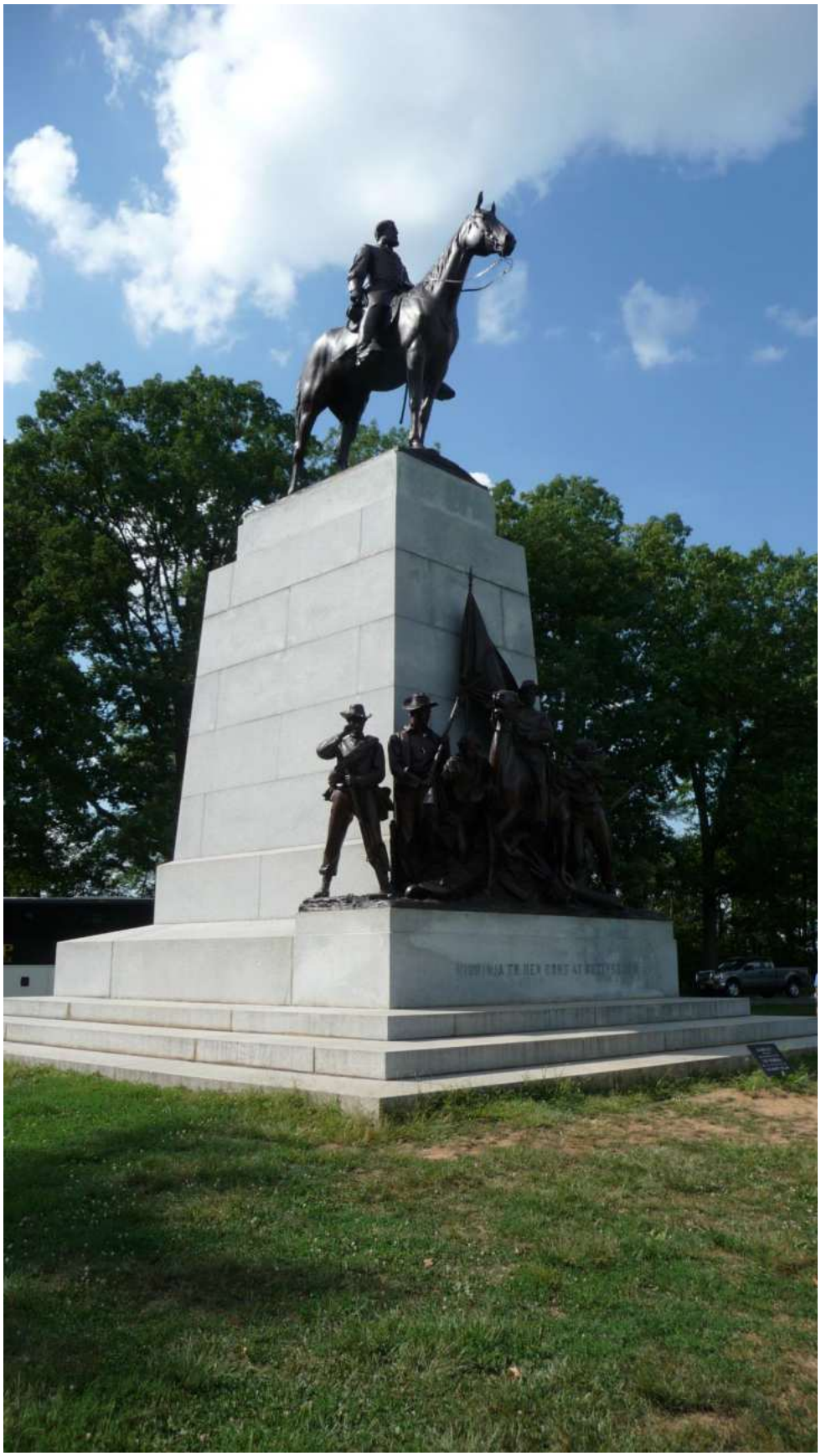
C. S. A.
ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA
HILL'S CORPS ANDERSON'S DIVISION
LANE'S BATTALION
PATTERSON'S WINGFIELD'S AND ROSS'S
BATTERIES
THREE NAPOLEONS TWO 20 POUNDER PARROTTS
THREE 10 POUNDER PARROTTS FOUR 3 INCH RAVI PARROTTS
AND FIVE 12 POUNDER HOWITZERS
JULY 2-3 TOOK PART IN THE BATTLE
JULY 4 REMAINED IN POSITION NEAR HERE AND ABOUT SUNSET BEGAN
THE MARCH TO HAGERSTOWN
LOSSES KILLED 5 WOUNDED 21 MISSING 6 TOTAL 32
AMMUNITION EXPENDED 1052 ROUNDS HORSES KILLED OR DISABLED 36

1863
NORTH CAROLINA
TO THE ETERNAL GLORY OF THE NORTH CAROLINA SOLDIERS, WHO ON THIS BATTLEFIELD, DISPLAYED HEROISM UNSURPASSED. SACRIFICING ALL IN SUP— PORT OF THEIR CAUSE. THEIR VALOROUS DEEDS WILL BE ENSHRINED IN THE HEARTS OF MEN LONG AFTER THESE TRANSIENT MEMORIALS HAVE CRUM— BLED INTO DUST.
THIRTY TWO NORTH CAROLINA REGIMENTS WERE IN ACTION AT GETTYSBURG JULY 1, 2, 3, 1863. ONE CON —FEDERATE SOLDIER IN EVERY FOUR WHO FELL HERE WAS A NORTH CAROLINIAN
THIS TABLET ERECTED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY

NORTH CAROLINA ORGANIZATIONS IN THE ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA AT THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG JULY 1-3, 1863
HOOD'S DIVISION
PENDER'S DIVISION
STUART'S DIVISION OF CAV







Bonus Section:

Everyone is talking about Artificial Intelligence. Here's a couple questions I posed to ChatGPT AI program about Gettysburg. Take them for what they are worth. But I would say, mostly correct.

What was General Robert E Lee's biggest mistake at the Gettysburg battle during the Civil War?

ChatGPT

General Robert E. Lee made several critical decisions during the Battle of Gettysburg, and it is difficult to single out one as his "biggest mistake." However, one of the most significant and debated decisions was Pickett's Charge, which occurred on the third day of the battle (July 3, 1863).

Pickett's Charge was a massive assault ordered by General Lee against the center of the Union line on Cemetery Ridge. The charge involved approximately 12,500 Confederate soldiers, mostly from General George Pickett's division, supported by troops from General James Longstreet's corps. The objective was to break the Union line and achieve a decisive victory.

However, the charge proved to be a disastrous and costly mistake for the Confederate army. There were several factors that contributed to its failure:

1. Long Distance and Exposed March: The Confederate soldiers had to march over three-quarters of a mile across open terrain under heavy artillery and rifle fire from the Union positions. This exposed them to devastating casualties even before they reached the Union lines.
2. Artillery Preceding the Charge: Before the infantry advanced, General Lee ordered a massive artillery bombardment to weaken the Union defenses. Unfortunately, much of the Confederate artillery fire was not as effective as hoped, and the Union troops remained relatively intact.
3. Lack of Proper Coordination: Due to communication issues and other factors, the coordination between the different Confederate units during the charge was not ideal. The attack became disjointed and lacked the necessary cohesion.
4. Union Defensive Position: The Union forces were well entrenched on Cemetery Ridge, providing them with a strong defensive position. The Confederate soldiers had to traverse difficult terrain and withstand intense fire while attempting to breach these fortified positions.

As a result of Pickett's Charge, the Confederates suffered heavy losses, including a large number of experienced and well-trained officers. The failed assault was a significant turning point in the battle and is often seen as a decisive moment in the war. The Confederate defeat at Gettysburg marked a shift in momentum and morale in favor of the Union, and it was a severe setback for General Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

While Pickett's Charge is often considered one of Lee's most ill-fated decisions during the Battle of Gettysburg, it is essential to recognize that there were other contributing factors to the Confederate defeat, including earlier decisions made during the course of the battle. The battle as a whole was a complex and multifaceted engagement with a range of strategic and tactical decisions on both sides.

What was General George Meade's biggest mistake at the Gettysburg battle during the Civil War?

ChatGPT

General George G. Meade, who commanded the Union Army of the Potomac during the Battle of Gettysburg, made some decisions that have been subject to historical analysis and debate. While it is challenging to pinpoint one specific "biggest mistake," one decision that is often criticized is his failure to aggressively pursue and attack the retreating Confederate Army after the battle.

After the Union victory at Gettysburg, General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia began retreating southward on the night of July 4 and into the early hours of July 5, 1863. Meade had the opportunity to pursue the retreating Confederates and potentially inflict further damage on Lee's army. However, he chose not to launch an immediate pursuit and instead proceeded more cautiously.

There are several reasons that have been cited for Meade's decision:

1. Exhaustion and Casualties: The Union Army had suffered significant casualties during the three-day battle at Gettysburg. Meade's forces were also physically and mentally exhausted after the intense fighting. Pursuing a retreating enemy would have required additional marching and engagement, potentially leading to more casualties.
2. Council of War: Meade held a council of war with his corps commanders on July 4 to discuss the pursuit. Some of his generals, like General Henry Halleck and General Daniel Sickles, argued against immediate pursuit, further influencing Meade's decision.
3. Unknown Confederate Strength: Meade did not have precise intelligence on the extent of Confederate casualties or their overall combat readiness after the battle. Pursuing Lee's army without this crucial information carried risks.
4. Defensive Mindset: Meade was known for being a cautious and defensive-minded commander. His priority was to protect Washington, D.C., and his position as the victor at Gettysburg. He may have felt more inclined to consolidate his gains and secure the victory rather than risking further battles.

While some historians have criticized Meade for not pursuing the retreating Confederates more aggressively, others argue that his decision to stay put and not risk further losses was reasonable given the circumstances. The Confederate retreat was relatively swift, and Meade did eventually move his army southward in pursuit, but by then, Lee's army had managed to escape across the Potomac River into Virginia.

It's essential to consider the complex and fluid nature of military decision-making during a battle and recognize that commanders like Meade faced numerous challenges and uncertainties. The aftermath of Gettysburg and Meade's actions continue to be studied and debated by historians to this day.

Stuart's comment: Longstreet had urged Lee not to make the frontal assault, but a flanking maneuver. Lee had hoped Meade would pursue him to meet him on an open field. Lee's army was still a considerable force even in defeat.